Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-35 (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 34~~ A pharmaceutical formulation for use in at least one of maintaining normovolemia, improving macro and microcirculation, improving nutritive oxygen supply, stabilizing hemodynamics, improving volume efficiency, reducing plasma viscosity, increasing anemia tolerance, and performing hemodilution, the pharmaceutical formulation comprising a hydroxyethylstarch comprising an average molecular weight, Mw, of greater than or equal to 500,000, a molar substitution MS of from 0.25 to 0.5 and a C_2/C_6 ratio of from 2 to below 8, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch in the formulation is in a concentration of up to 20%[[,]].

Claims 37-40 (Canceled).

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 34~~ A pharmaceutical formulation for use in at least one of maintaining normovolemia, improving macro and microcirculation, improving nutritive oxygen supply, stabilizing hemodynamics, improving volume efficiency, reducing plasma viscosity, increasing anemia tolerance, and performing hemodilution, the pharmaceutical formulation comprising a hydroxyethylstarch comprising an average molecular weight, Mw, of greater than or equal to 500,000, a molar substitution MS of from 0.25 to 0.5 and a C_2/C_6 ratio of from 2 to below 8, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch is at least one of sterile filtered and heat sterilized.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Currently Amended) ~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 34~~ A

pharmaceutical formulation for use in at least one of maintaining normovolemia, improving macro and microcirculation, improving nutritive oxygen supply, stabilizing hemodynamics, improving volume efficiency, reducing plasma viscosity, increasing anemia tolerance, and performing hemodilution, the pharmaceutical formulation comprising a hydroxyethylstarch comprising an average molecular weight, Mw, of greater than or equal to 500,000, a molar substitution MS of from 0.25 to 0.5 and a C_2/C_6 ratio of from 2 to below 8, and the pharmaceutical formulation further ~~comprising~~comprises at least one of the following active ingredients: sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride and sodium acetate.

Claims 44-58 (Canceled).

59. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 52,~~ A method of preparing a plasma replacement or plasma expander, said method comprising the step of preparing a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a hydroxyethylstarch comprising an average molecular weight, Mw, of greater than or equal to 500,000, characterized by having a molar substitution MS of from 0.25 to 0.5 and a C_2/C_6 ratio of from 2 to below 8, and further comprising the step of filtrating and sterilizing the hydroxyethylstarch.

60. (Canceled).

61. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 52,~~ A method of preparing a plasma replacement or plasma expander, said method comprising the step of preparing a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a hydroxyethylstarch comprising an average molecular weight, Mw, of greater than or equal to 500,000, characterized by having a molar substitution MS of from 0.25 to 0.5 and a C_2/C_6 ratio of from 2 to below 8, and wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further ~~comprising~~ comprises at least one of the following active ingredients: sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride and sodium acetate.

Claims 62-78 (Canceled).

79. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising separately:

(i) a hydroxyethylstarch; and

(ii) a sterile salt solution

wherein the hydroxyethylstarch comprises an average molecular weight, Mw, of greater than or equal to 500,000, characterized by having a molar substitution MS of from 0.25 to 0.5 and a C_2/C_6 ratio of from 2 to below 8.

80. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 79, wherein the sterile salt solution is sodium chloride solution.

81. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 79 further comprising at least one of the following active ingredients: sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride and sodium acetate.

82. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 79, wherein the molar substitution MS is from 0.35 to 0.5.

83. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 79, wherein the average molecular weight is from above 600,000 to 1,500,000.

84. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 79, wherein the C2/C6 ratio is from 2 to 7

85. (Canceled).

86. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 79, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch and the sterile salt solution are in separated compartments in a multi-compartment bag.

87. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 81, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch, the sterile salt solution, and the at least one pharmaceutically active ingredient are in separated

compartments in a multi-compartment bag.

88. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of an aqueous solution and a colloidal aqueous solution.

89. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises sodium chloride.

90. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises plasma-adapted electrolytes.

91. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of a buffered solution and a solution with metabolizable anions.

92. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of a hypertonic solution.

93. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch is at least one of sterile filtered and heat sterilized.

94. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, characterized by being a volume replacement.

95. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 36, further comprising at least one of the following active ingredients: sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride and sodium acetate.

96. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of an aqueous solution and a colloidal aqueous solution.

97. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch in the formulation is in a concentration of up to 20%.

98. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises sodium chloride.

99. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises plasma-adapted electrolytes.

100. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of a buffered solution and a solution with metabolizable anions.

101. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of a hypertonic solution.

102. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, characterized by being a volume replacement.

103. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 41, further comprisingat least one of the following active ingredients: sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride and sodium acetate.

104. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 43, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of an aqueous solution and a colloidal aqueous solution.

105. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 43, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch in the formulation is in a concentration of up to 20%.

106. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 43, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises plasma-adapted electrolytes.

107. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 43, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of a buffered solution and a solution with metabolizable anions.

108. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 43, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of a hypertonic solution.

109. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 43, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch is at least one of sterile filtered and heat sterilized.

110. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 43, characterized by being a volume replacement.

111. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of an aqueous solution and a colloidal aqueous solution.

112. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch is in a concentration of up to 20%.

113. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises sodium chloride in the pharmaceutical formulation.

114. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises plasma-adapted electrolytes.

115. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of a buffered solution and a solution with metabolizable anions.

116. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in a form of a hypertonic solution.

117. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising using the pharmaceutical formulation as a volume replacement.

118. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises at least one of the following active ingredients: sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride and sodium acetate.

119. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of an aqueous solution and a colloidal aqueous solution.

120. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the hydroxyethylstarch is in a concentration of up to 20%.

121. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises sodium chloride in the pharmaceutical formulation.

122. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises plasma-adapted electrolytes.

123. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in the form of at least one of a buffered solution and a solution with metabolizable anions.

124. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in a form of a hypertonic solution.

125. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of filtrating and sterilizing thehydroxyethylstarch.

126. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising using the pharmaceutical formulation as a volume replacement.